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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON SEPTEMBER 11, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

1. On 09/12, the San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" carried an op-ed by Billy Pena entitled "One more year." "Yesterday we commemorated one more year of the terrorist attack committed by the Islamic fundamentalists against the majestic twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the gigantic Pentagon building in Washington. The airplanes piloted by the terrorists hit the target and since that horrible day -9/11/2001- nothing would be the same. The world would divide in two... the Cold War would be child's play compared it to the situation today."

"After what happened four years ago the world has changed radically. Those who think that only the lives of Americans have changed are mistaken. No, we are all suffering the consequences of irrational religious fanaticism. The twin towers attack had serious consequences. Afghanistan and Iraq were invaded. The saddest thing of all is that Iraq still suffers the slaughter of an undeclared war, a war very similar to the conflict of Vietnam that lasted approximately seven years. Those are the conflicts that do not have any explanation but they have arisen throughout history."

"There have been great tragedies in the world, as many natural as those caused by man. The aerial attack on Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese went against American bases and ships during World War II, was dreadful."

"But we should forget the victims of hurricane Katrina that devastated part of the southern States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. There has also been pain, suffering and death. Perhaps it will take many months and years before everything returns to normal. The world was divided... no longer are there Communists and capitalists. Now the situation is worse, now the world only has "good" and "bad" and is living in apocalyptic days."

2. On 09/11, the Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Heraldo" published an editorial entitled "Four years from 9/11." "The fourth anniversary of the first attack suffered by the U.S. and the country hasn't been able to capture Osama bin Laden. The country has been besieged not only by the failures in the illegal and immoral war in Iraq, but by the humiliation that it has represented for the great superpower in the poor management of the prevention, rescues and aid to the victims of hurricane Katrina."

"The Bush administration, whose excuses to invade and to occupy Iraq were widely rejected, also used the traumas left by 9/11 to obtain its re-election, but it has failed. Despite all the technological power and the \$25 million reward for the maximum leader of Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, considered the intellectual author of the hardest blow received by the United States from an external enemy after the military defeat in Vietnam, the U.S. hasn't been able to capture him."

"If the Iraqi war also helped to refute the propaganda that portrays the United States as a defender of human rights and democracy, as the torture and murder of prisoners in the jails of Iraq and Guantanamo demonstrates, hurricane Katrina has unveiled the most intimate fissures of the superpower: lack of disaster prevention, abandonment of most vulnerable, social inequalities, politics, etc."

"9/11 was a great tragedy for the United States; the disaster caused by Katrina is still worse. Hopefully this second blow will provoke a reawakening of the northern nation."

3. On 9/12, "El Heraldo" carried an editorial entitled "Two U.S. tragedies." "In the middle of a new tragedy, the one caused by the hurricane Katrina, North Americans commemorated yesterday the fourth anniversary of the terrorist attack in 2001 with a ceremony in the place the Twin Towers occupied, and also with a controversial "March of Freedom" in Washington, promoted by the Pentagon."

"9/11 and the disasters caused by Katrina shocked the United States and the world, with the difference being that the first caused a feeling of national unity and total support

of the global community, while the present tragedy revealed the racial and class differences and a shower of criticism by the delayed governmental reaction."

"There is no doubt that the Al-Qaeda attacks marked a `before and after,' not only for the United States but for all the rest of the world: the so-called `war against terrorism;' the restrictions of the civil liberties; the violations of international law have extended and, in many cases, have worsened the damages caused by 9/11 to the coexistence between individuals and the nations."

"Knowing the greatness of the American people, nobody should doubt that these two great tragedies, one caused by man and the other, nature's painful call for attention, will change into points of reflection and new actions that will lead towards the construction of a bigger superpower, less arrogant and also more conscious of its own weaknesses. After all, that would be the best tribute for the 9/11 victims, and victims of the war started by Bush and the disasters caused by Katrina."

Williard